

The Times-Dispatch

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MONDAY, APRIL 29, 1912.

DO IT TO-MORROW.

Vote to-morrow.

What's the good of being for better city government for Richmond, what's the good of believing in businesslike management of the city's business, if you won't get out to vote for the best men for the Common Council to-morrow?

What's the good of being against cutlery politicians, demagogues and government by city employees if you can't smash in a vote against them?

It is all very well to go to Dollar Dinners and meetings, applaud speakers and join in the general clamor that conditions must go, but what's the point if you won't march up to the polls to-morrow and help make good government a go?

All the enthusiasm in the world isn't worth a continental if it isn't expressed in action. You can crowd a battlefield full of soldiers, but if none of them have guns in their hands, an armed corporal's guard can rout them.

It's to-morrow that the civic soldiers of Richmond must get down their guns and use them. A gun is a vote, a vote is a gun.

This isn't any parlor game—it's a fight—a fight for Richmond. Get in it to-morrow. Vote. Get your friends to vote. See that your employees vote. Take off your coat and work for the best men. Kick the cutlery politicians hat out of the ring. Make the yard-keepers stop kicking and business government around.

You would walk miles to a doctor to get rid of a disease. Can't you walk just to the polls to rid the city of an inefficient Common Council?

An inefficient Common Council means a poor Administrative Board, and both mean an inefficient city government. Don't vote to let a man conduct the city's business in the Common Council unless you would vote for him to carry on your own business.

Vote.

MORE LIGHT ON THE TOKYO CONFERENCE.

The broader light discussion and details throw upon the religious conference of Buddhists, Shintoists and Christians recently held in Tokyo, Japan, enlarges vastly its significance. The influence the gathering must necessarily exert in protecting Christian missionaries and opening new fields of labor for them, not alone in Japan, but in Korea and China, we have already adverted to. The influence China has exerted in bringing the conference about and causing the Emperor to set the seal of approval upon its proceedings, and the policy of co-operation it determined upon, is equally pregnant with importance, interest and significance. The Chinese revolutionary movement has resulted in much space being devoted by the Japanese papers to agitation in the abstract of revolution as a right of the people, not inconsistent with national loyalty. This prepared ground for sowing the seeds of anarchy and socialism in Japan, which are already bringing forth dangerous harvests in various parts of the empire.

The Japanese anarchical and socialist cults are especially hostile to Christianity, and have lately been diligent in efforts to cultivate antagonism to it among the masses—particularly the Buddhists. The government reasoned, and reasoned logically, that a religion which displayed men hate must essentially be a power for the promotion of loyalty. When therefore a strenuous popular Buddhist protest was filed against holding the conference, on the ground that it was calculated to accord Christianity equal recognition and honor with the national religion, the government frankly and unequivocally declared that to be its purpose. The Emperor and his ministers boldly and fearlessly, and, in truth, defiantly announced that they would no longer discriminate in any way or respect, directly or indirectly, against a religion which indicated as Christianity does, loyalty and patriotism among its adherents.

The imprimatur and attitude of the government was a concession that, with the advent of the new civilization, materialism, as represented in the older religions, can no longer be depended upon as the foundation of loyalty and love of country, and ideals of good and enduring government, that the only safe foundation for these is "spirituality," as illustrated in Christianity, and the fruits thereof as in evidence in the Western world.

The question is naturally asked, "But, at the last, will the great rank and file of the Japanese accept the dictum of the Church Federation, which is so opposite to tradition and long hereditary conviction, on the simple order of the Imperial authorities?" Perhaps they would not if there were not other and potent reasons, apart even from appeal to loyalty and patriotism, which encourage belief in acceptance. These reasons are not far from the secretary of the Tokyo Young

Men's Christian Association, who speaks from long contact with the Japanese and profound study of their history and methods of thought.

Questioning the widely prevalent impression that "the Oriental naturally thinks to the left when we think to the right," he says: "Japan, for instance, has not in many most important matters been thinking in an opposite direction from us. She has not thought so in all the material sciences. There, what has been true to us has been true to her. . . . The foundations of her logic are the foundations of our logic. . . . Her sense of moral values is the same, whatever variations there may be in her applications. She believes passionately in our sciences. Will she not also come to believe in our religion? That the East does not think always in the contrary direction from the West is proved surely by the fact that the West has accepted a faith which came out of the East." That the government understood this better than the writer we have quoted, he the latter never so well informed and competent to prophesy, goes without the saying.

Hence, in both the religious and the political aspect of the conference, we have most strongly fortified assurance, not only of more sympathetic relation between the West and the East, but of the birth of an Eastern nationalism which must make for the world's peace through that sympathy, and the exclusion of justification for Occidental interference and territorial aggrandizement in the far Orient. By reflex action the influence of the Tokyo conference cannot but prove almost infinitely far-reaching, morally, religiously and in its bearing on governmental stability in China.

THE FEAST OF MUSIC.

There is nothing more to be said about the Spring Music Festival save that it begins to-night and is going to be the biggest, most expensive, most artistic and most satisfying ever held in Richmond. If our adjectives tend to the circus-poster variety, forgive them for the sake of the enthusiasm by which they are dictated. Nothing is left to do but to submit the soul to the ministrations of sweet sound. For the audience is part of the program, and much of the inspiration of such carnivals depends upon the mood of joyous appreciation that like some unseen link binds musicians and auditors in a fellowship of mutual sympathy and emotional harmony. Let all the hard work and distractions of daily life be forgotten for but a few hours, until the loosed spirit hears in the notes of masters some echo of its beautiful origin and divine destiny.

The great gift of music is to bring release from harrying thoughts of treasuries, stratagems and spoils. It trails clouds of glory through a humdrum and dreary world. It has no moral save happiness, no message save beauty. And surely now it comes as a blessed relief from much that is ugly and distressing. The wonder of spring has been shadowed with a great disaster; famine and war and strikes and the tumult of an undisciplined and wearisome political campaign assault the mind with gloomy and terrible foreboding, and men wonder at what a raging and pointless furor life has become. But the slender wand of music still has its fairy power of reviving hope and bringing out of confusion a magical peace of the heart. So to go to these concerts is not after all a matter of civic pride or supporting a worthy cause or doing society, but just a way of seeking lost paths to a beautiful garden.

ELECT READE AND POLLOCK.

Frank M. Reade and Gilbert K. Pollock should be re-elected to the Common Council from Madison Ward.

No unjust discrimination is here intended, nor can any fair-minded man so construe such a declaration. The Times-Dispatch does not reflect on any of the other candidates, but indorses these two men because, of the candidates for the Council, they are the only two who were members of the committee which drew up the new plan of government for Richmond and pushed it through the City Council. Messrs. Reade and Pollock happen to come from the same ward, under the new re-districting ordinance, and be it said to their everlasting credit that they voluntarily legislated themselves out of their old wards and voluntarily made it more difficult for themselves to secure re-election to the Council. In the discharge of their duty to the city, of their own free will they doubled the chance of their own defeat. In all Richmond, there are the only two members of the committee for a new plan of city government who are up for re-election, and it is up to the voters of Madison Ward to return these men, in recognition of the splendid and courageous service they rendered to Madison Ward and the whole city in helping to shape and to have established a better form of government for Richmond. The new Common Council must be composed of men who are in sympathy with and will co-operate with the Administrative Board for the welfare of Richmond. Messrs. Pollock and Reade have staid municipal government, thoroughly and are amply qualified for councilmanic responsibility.

Mr. Pollock has long been sub-chairman of the Committee on Streets and is an active and energetic member of that committee, bringing to its work the aid of his legal knowledge.

Dr. Reade is a member of the Finance Committee, succeeding Dr. Ehnlon Williams in the Council. He has rendered notable service by his supreme interest in the work of the Health Department and the Department for the Relief of the Poor. He has brought his medical knowledge into his councilmanic work

and has wrought well for the public health of Richmond.

Councilmen Reade and Pollock have demonstrated in the fight for a better plan of government that they possess the qualities desired for Councilmen under that new form—courage, self-sacrifice, broad vision, expert knowledge, energy and ability. They should be returned to the Common Council to-morrow.

THE UNIQUE ONION.

To the earnest cultivator of individuality we commend a sober contemplation of the onion. The onion has more individuality than anything else in the world. Indeed, it has sacrificed everything to this single quality—home-life, friends and reputation. An onion is just fibre and water and individuality. It offers nothing as sustenance or an object of beauty, yet its biting, pungent and lingering personality has given it a just claim upon the respect and veneration of the world. It is a striking example of the victory of quality over quantity. With the exception of salt, men would miss the onion more from their tables than any other article of diet. And yet there are weak-kneed souls who affect to despise this fragrant tuber.

Kill the onion and you leave a gap in the universe. Kill anything else and there is a substitute. The potato is akin to the cereals, squash and cabbage and turnips and cauliflower are of the same family, beans are elongated peas, the lemon is a pessimistic orange, beef reincarnated grass, water melons just the survival of a very fit cucumber, and so on. But the onion is sui generis, alone, unique, triumphant. It is a special creation to tempt the palate of a weary world. It proves the futility of man's wisdom. He might have guessed at everything else under the sun, but he would have never guessed an onion. Science may deduce a new star before it becomes visible, or radium before its discovery, but this succulent, fragrant, starchy vegetable would have gone unperceived forever had not its own insinuating, yet not bashful qualities forced themselves into tear-brimmed eyes and lustrous anticipatory lips. With what a mixture of gratitude and awe should we view the spectacle of nature turning her energies to the transmuting of mere clay into a vegetable with an artistic temperament!

HOW ABOUT THAT MASS-MEETING?

Will the proper authorities of the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Men's Club get together to-day and call a mass-meeting of the citizens to start a campaign to enlarge the city electorate? These two organizations can render a great service to Richmond by calling and arranging for such a meeting, for only five days are left to increase the number of voters so that the city employees and ward politicians will not control the election of the Administrative Board. May 4 is the last day for the payment of poll taxes. There should be a mass-meeting at once, and if the Chamber of Commerce and the Business Men's Club will get busy, one can be held to-morrow or Wednesday which will do much toward guaranteeing a businesslike management of the business of Richmond. City government is a business proposition. It should not be left to the mercy of self-seeking politicians.

Mr. Roosevelt now admits that everybody else has already admitted—that George W. Peck is playing "angel" to the Colonel's farce-melodrama.

Dr. D. K. Pearson died at the age of ninety-two after giving away over \$5,000,000 to small colleges. He had sold his home to establish a public library and was living in a senatorium on the only worldly possession he had left—an annuity of \$5,000. He lived both the simple and the full life.

The Virginia Military Institute is keeping its noble traditions untarnished. According to a staff officer of the United States Army who inspected the cadet corps, "it compares favorably with the finest crack companies of the regular army."

The Hindoo prophet who is expected by theosophists to begin the moral transformation of the world shows his wisdom by coming to Paris first.

One product in which Richmond leads the world is Extra Superfine A1 spring sunshine.

The rest of the State heard Richmond's Dollar Dinner bell, and many cities are going to do likewise. All they need to make their banquets successful is just to remember that they have Richmond for a capital, too.

Uncle Simpson Pepper says he doesn't know what woman's sphere is, but he notices she is pretty good at getting round men.

Can the patriotic citizens of Richmond devise some method, at once dignified and effective, of knocking the incompetent candidates for the A. B. into a cocked hat?

Greasy He the heads of the councilmanic candidates to-night.

Some people thought there was mud-slinging in Virginia last summer, but it couldn't hold a candle to the Taft-Teddy cuss contest.

In Lee Ward at this election it seems to be a case of the Young Man in Politics.

On the Spur of the Moment
 By Roy K. Moulton

A Hunting Story.

Dear Sir: Won't you please tell us a good hunting story; one that is true? BOBBY W.

Sure thing! Once there was a man who had one leg which was longer than the other leg. His wife did not make one leg longer than the other leg by pulling it, or anything like that. No, indeed. This is how it happened:

The man went out hunting with a gun—a rifle gun, that shoots bullets out of it. At the foot of the mountain he saw a mountain goat which he wanted to shoot, but the mountain goat was superstitious and wouldn't stand still long enough to be shot, but kept running around the mountain. The feller he kept running around the mountain after the goat, and every once in a while he would stop and take aim and shoot off the rifle at the goat, but he couldn't hit the goat, for the goat would always be just around the corner of the mountain, and this was the straight-barreled gun which wouldn't shoot around the corner very accurate. So the feller thought he would try to hit the goat and knock the goat's brains out with the stock of the gun. And he and the goat chased around and around the mountain, fifteen or twenty times, when a hunter idea struck the feller and he says to himself: "By ginner, I'll make the dog-eared goat shoot around the mountain and I'll hit that goat yet." So, passing a small tree which stood on the side of the mountain the feller grasped the gun firm and hit it against the tree and bent the barrel until it was crooked and would shoot around a corner.

The goat was a good warden ahead around the mountain, and the feller couldn't see him at all, but he took aim and blazed away at the goat and the bullet went whizzin' around the mountain after the goat. Of course, the bullet was goin' considerably faster than the goat, or the feller either, and every time the bullet came around and passed the feller, he had to dodge wise and dodged. The goat got the bullet would go around the mountain about three times while the goat and the feller was goin' around once. Finally, about noon the goat got rattled and dodged the wrong way around the mountain, and the feller, from the back of the head and the feller picked up the goat and went back to the plateau at the foot of the mountain. When he started to walk on level ground, he found that one leg was shorter than the other, and he had to walk with a limp all the rest of his life.

You see, he had run around the mountain so much that the inside leg, or the shorter leg, had got worn off about three inches.

Here's a Real Hot One From the Mail.

Dear Sir: I have read most of the letters you have sent, and I must say I am disgusted. For I know you don't read more different kinds of letters besides even parlor car postcards and in lorned politicians. There is a hole lot of individuals which you should smile at the irony of plates as well as the irony of the world. I don't see anything sorry about the hand conductor that wears a lot of medals and why don't he wear 'em all the time instead of on his chest where nobody can see 'em, but the hand conductor when he terms around to a bunch, also post some of them letters that come around selling mop-riggers that don't work with a darn. There is a man in this town that sleeps in the graveyard every night rather than go home. Hand him a blast sometime. Yours respectfully, T. G. F.

Memories.

Good dippers.
 Plush photograph albums.
 "Little Annie Roomy."
 Chestnut bells.
 Soap baths.
 Thick mumps and plas.
 Fresh pork and lard greasers.
 Animal cookies.
 Frozen pumps.
 Tin washbasins.

Menu of a Sweet Young Co-Ed.

Charlotte Rousse. Vanilla Soda.
 LUNCHEON.
 Dill Pickle. Nut Sundae.
 Cheese Slices. Malted Milk Chocolate.
 DINNER.
 Dill Pickle. Candied Cherries.
 Chocolate Fudge.
 Lemon Ice. Welch Rarebit.
 Chewing Gum.

Voice of the People

A Criticism of Our Schools.

Sir:—Although some of the Richmond papers seem to think that no one but an expert should criticize the education system of Virginia, and that yet I, who am neither an expert nor a teacher, but only a parent, am venturing to judge the tree by its fruit. Ten years ago I was living in the country and had three boys attending school and making good progress. The school term was over and it was a long distance to the nearest school, so I moved to Richmond. My children, aged, but before they had attended school here long I noticed that their writing was getting very bad, and on investigating the cause, I found that the teacher required speed before leg-

ibility instead of requiring legibility and working up to speed.

After residing three years in Richmond I bought a house in the suburbs where the school was considered equal to the Richmond schools, and all my children attended there till 1905.

My work keeps me fully occupied during the day, and I do not visit the schools, but expected results from seeing that my children attended regularly and from giving them such help as they asked for in preparing their lessons at night.

In 1905, the boys being then seventeen, sixteen, fifteen and thirteen years of age, it seemed to me that the older ones should be well educated in the essentials, yet none of them could do so. They were all very poor in the essentials, and their writing was so very bad that I sent two of them to take writing lessons at a local business college. The teacher said that their writing would be spoiled when they went back to the public schools.

When I tested the children on arithmetic I found them woefully incompetent in simple addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and, therefore, though they might know the rules by which they should work out any advanced problem, their answers were very often wrong. A very long time was taken to give the answer. When I asked for the total of nine and seven I found the boy adding the amounts on his fingers, and when I checked for it he stated that his teacher did so.

One day, just after a school examination, my third boy (fifteen) came proudly to me with his examination paper in geography. It was marked 100 per cent. Perfect. He was delighted. I opened the paper. There were thirteen questions and there was not one correct answer, the nearest being "Glasgow." I was afterwards informed by a teacher that spelling was not considered in a geography lesson or examination. This was the last straw. I could stand. Though I hated to do so, I withdrew the two oldest boys from school and sent them to a country where I had passed through the mill and knew that thoroughness was required. The next year I withdrew the other two and sent them to join their brothers.

Now, my boys were fairly average boys in intelligence; they were not dumb, they were bright, they were here, and yet when I sent them to another country, if they had been put with scholars of their own grades they would have been graded as below average, and they were competent for and drop certain studies entirely, and their reports each term show that they are barely able to do a report marked, "Excellent." Good from my oldest boy, who has now returned to this country and is attending a university here. I have received a report marked, "Excellent." Good from my oldest boy, who has now returned to this country and is attending a university here. I have received a report marked, "Excellent." Good from my oldest boy, who has now returned to this country and is attending a university here.

I have due regard for some expert testimony, but it is not possible that we are making a fetish of it? Experts disagree among themselves. They are experimenting at the expense of our children. A so-called expert article tells us we must not educate the children too quickly, but give them more time and let their minds develop, or, of course, the children are to be educated slowly, and the parents are afraid to object to "expert" testimony, but how many ordinary, average children have you ever known to be hurt by over-education? I was seven and a half years old. Our lesson hours, five days per week, were from 9 A. M. till 12 M., and from 1 P. M. till 4 P. M. I was read from 6:30 P. M. till 8 P. M. To prepare lessons in the presence of a schoolmaster, who would help if asked, and the teachers were willing and agreeable to grade of lessons. They were nonessentials or frills, we had dancing lessons of one hour each two nights per week, and in spring and summer we had drilling and fencing lessons from 6:30 A. M. to 7:30 A. M. before breakfast, two days per week. We had also either one or two hours, according to grade of school, every Saturday morning. It was never suggested to us that we were overworked or that we might get nervous, we all were had good appetites and could have eaten more than we got, therefore we were never sick.

I am intimately acquainted with two Englishmen, and I am safe in saying that no one in the county in which they reside has a better general education than either of them, though neither attended school after he was fifteen years of age.

Not long ago, the children in a Richmond school were told to write a short essay and to avoid being too personal, we will call the subject, "Why James Brown was a hero." I suggested to one of the scholars, who sought information, that while one should not speak ill of the dead, in

this case, had the so-called hero not lost his own life by the blunder he made in which he sacrificed the lives of others, he would have been a hero of the Richmond schools, and all my children attended there till 1905.

The scholar wrote her essay and embodied these ideas. Some time after, I inquired how the teacher liked the essay, and he said that the scholar had never heard a word from it. The teacher simply collected and that was an end to them. Probably if a blank sheet of paper had been handed to the teacher, the difficulty would never have been discovered. The teacher had no time to look at the essays; it was more important to teach the children to make marbled bags of doll's clothes.

When I was a boy, and I suppose that the children are the same, I thought that essay had been mine if it would have been the first and the last that I would have ever heard of. I was about writing for that teacher, of course, I would have been the loser, but I could not have understood so then.

Here is a copy of a postcard now lying on my desk. It was written by a student at a Virginia college. "I suppose you think that I am very ungrateful to you for sending me what I would have answered you sooner but I have forgotten your address and am now sending this by guess. I appreciate your sending the speech and it would have been lost had I not been so careless. I had continued in the contest, but since we have decided not to be in it, I will go through the life handed down."

With all due respect for women, I do not think they are fit to teach any children except girls and very young children. Very old boys, from seven to seventeen, are of age require a teacher they are rather afraid of and who will force them to study.

In the school my boys are now attending the teachers are all men. The school is intended to meet the requirements of boys from eight to seventeen years of age. The teachers are apportioned as follows: Twelve English, mathematics, three history, three German, five French, six physics, chemistry, two chemistry and physics, one science, one writing, bookkeeping and stenography, two drawing and designing, two technical, music, two gymnastics and swimming.

No matter whether women or men are to teach boys, it seems evident to me that Richmond is doing decidedly wrong in requiring teachers, except in the High School, to teach every subject. This is the day of the number does not buy the house nor the carpenter do the plastering. You may pick up a man who can do all the work, but it is not done well, when she is expected to teach twenty-two subjects in a certain school, require Miss A. to teach everything, when she is expected to teach mathematics, or why should Miss B. teach music and drawing when she has no aptitude for them, but is excellent on English? Why do we do away with "Jack-of-all-trades" teachers and employ specialists in the proportions required for that school? They would cost no more. The salary of Miss A. and other mathematical teachers to teach mathematics and nothing else, and let the class be seated in her room from 9 to 10 A. M. and from 10 to 10:55 A. M. in Miss B's room, learning English, which may be grammar, or history, or geography, or Latin, then be seated in Miss C's room by 11 A. M. learning her specialty till 12 noon, when it would be dismissed for dinner, resume her class room as is deemed best a singular system for the balance of the day. I feel sure the teachers would prefer this, and they would improve on their specialties, as they would then like their work, if they liked work at all. By this system teachers would probably get over a great deal of their nervousness and would then be able to prevent the habit of nervousness in the children by teaching them to stand still and sit still. Five minutes ample time to change from one classroom to another, and anything else necessary. Certificates could then be issued to teach a certain branch of English.

I was never taught handicraft by the school, but we boys taught ourselves how to make fishing lines and watch guards out of horsehair, and out of cherry stones, ornaments out of coconut shells; also kites and many other articles, and I believe, made them better and took more pride in them than we would if we had been required to do the work as a school lesson. Some boys have a turn that way and some have not. Why not

teach nonessentials, handicraft, drawing, etc., after the regular school day is over, by special teachers, and let the school day be taken up by the strictly essentials? If a boy is going to learn a trade it is expected that the employer will teach him to handle the tools necessary, but he is expected to have the three R's, therefore teach him them thoroughly, and after you have done that it will not hurt the boy to turn him over and teach him it all thoroughly again.

By this system you will have the 50 per cent. of boys who leave school when they are about fifteen years old able to hold their own in any ordinary occupation, and it might be well to require those who want further education to pay for it, with perhaps assistance where necessary in deserving cases.

Richmond.
 R. F. R.

QUERIES & ANSWERS

A Date.
 Please tell me what day of the week was November 2, 1891.
 Monday.

Burial Places of Presidents.
 Please inform me where President Adams is buried, and where Monroe was first buried.
 H. S.
 Under the portico of the Stone Temple, Quincy, Mass. In the Forest Avenue Cemetery, New York City.

Choir Pronunciation.
 Can you tell me where the average choir member learns his pronunciation of English?
 L. L. H.
 Some have excellent opportunities to acquire proper pronunciation at home and at college, and in society, and some have not. We could not say what is the "average," but it is hoped that is not the choir in which we lately heard a certain rather neat bit of Addition.

"Vital Spark of Heavenly Flame."
 Quilt, O quilt this mortal frame," etc., pronounced,
 "Vi-tah-spar-kaw-ven-ee-ah-lem, Quilt-a-quilt-thi-mah-tal-frem."

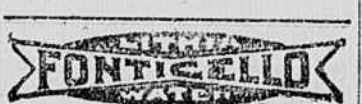
Life Insurance Companies.
 Which of the insurance companies did the largest amount of business in 1910 in the United States?
 W. D. HOLLAND.
 The New York Life is listed as receiving the greatest sum for premiums and for total income.

Her Weight in Gold.
 Where may I get a copy of the new novel, "Her Weight in Gold"? Who is the publisher?
 A. S. S.
 Any book store here will get it for you and will probably have it in stock soon after it appears. Dodd, Mead & Co. is the publisher. It will be "out" April 27.

Woman's Exchange.
 Please give the address of the Woman's Exchange in Richmond.
 BRADDER.
 Third and Franklin Streets.

Greatest Ocean Depth.
 Can you tell me what is the greatest depth of the ocean?
 R. C. C.
 No one knows. In latitude 21 degrees 59 minutes north; longitude 55 degrees 43 minutes west, the sounding wire after it was let down 5,760 fathoms, nearly six and a half statute miles. This is believed to be the deepest sounding ever made. Of course, no one can tell how far short of the bottom it was.

Horn Book.
 I do not know what a "horn book" was, but I do not know whether it was ever printed on horn. Can you tell me?
 R. S. DOWNS.
 Sometimes. The use of the "horn," however, was commonly to cover the printed sheet, which was fastened to a board, and to protect the text against the rough usage of the children who studied the "book."



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